Reviewer's report

Title: The socio-environmental determinants of railway suicide: a systematic review

Version: 6 Date: 15 December 2013

Reviewer: Karolina Krysinska

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the revised manuscript presenting results of a systematic review of studies on the socio-environmental determinants of railway suicide.

The quality of the manuscript has improved significantly and the reviewer’s comments and suggestions have been addressed.

There remain several minor points:

1. Table 1: two categories of studies have been introduced: “non-intervention studies” and “intervention studies”. In the text other categories of studies/results have been presented: railway environments, population characteristics, and media reporting. Could the authors revise the Table to match the Results section? Also, the phrase "the event" has been used in the Table. Could the authors specify "the event" or use other phrase?

2. Please, add references where necessary, for example, page 13, 2nd paragraph, add refs 36 and 37. Please, also provide reference for “ecological fallacy” (page 11).

3. Several phrases or sentences should be revised, for example, page 7, “The remaining study was a quasi-experimental” and “The socio-environments studied fell into…”. Page 10, “Media impact”, please clarify the sentence starting with “The study found that suicidal behaviors…”. Page 11, Discussion, edit sentence starting with “Both of these approaches…”. I am not sure why the term “social media reporting” instead of “media reporting” has been used (page 5).

Limitations, 2nd paragraph, please, revise the comment regarding exclusion of studies of temporal variations, especially “However, this was not so much a limitation…” (page 14).

4. The readers might be willing to learn more about the effective “blue lights” and “barriers” interventions (refs 36-37). Could the authors present these interventions in more details? Also could they provide a description (or examples) of “(ir)responsible media reporting of (rail) suicide”?

5. In Conclusions it is not clear why the authors chose to focus on alcohol outlets and alcohol consumption levels as variables for future studies.

6. A bold suggestion for future research would be indicating the need to introduce uniform measures of variables related to the railway network infrastructure and train traffic (see Summary, page 12).
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.